EGYPT. No. 3 (1898).

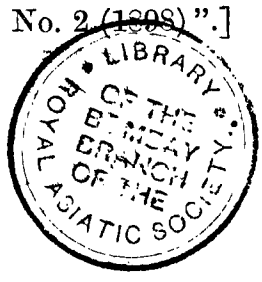
FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

VALLEY OF THE UPPER NILE.

110586

[In continuation of "Egypt No. 2 (1898)".]



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Further Correspondence respecting the Valley of the Upper Nile.

[In continuation of "Egypt No. 2 (1898)".]

No. 1.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1898.

THE French Ambassador called upon me yesterday at the Foreign Office. His interview was a long one, lasting nearly two hours. The greater part of it was occupied by observations on his part upon the question of Fashoda, which he introduced himself. His argument principally dwelt upon the fact that the country bordering the White Nile, though it was formerly under the Government of Egypt, had become *res nullius* by its abandonment on the part of the Egyptian Government; that the French had a right to a position on the Nile as much as the Germans or the Belgians; and that the French Government, by the reserves which they had uniformly made when the subject was mentioned, had retained for themselves the right to occupy the banks of the Nile when they thought fit.

In reply to his Excellency's observations I repeated the arguments on the British side of the case, which are already familiar. I pointed out to him that the Egyptian title to the banks of the Nile had certainly been rendered dormant by the military successes of the Mahdi; but that the amount of right, whatever it was, which by those events had been alienated from Egypt, had been entirely transferred to the conqueror. How much title remained to Egypt, and how much was transferred to the Mahdi and the Khalifa, was, of course, a question which could practically be only settled, as it was settled, on the field of battle. But their controversy did not authorize a third party to claim the disputed land as derelict. There is no ground in international law for asserting that the dispute of title between them, which had been inclined one day by military superiority in one direction, and a few years later had been inclined in the other, could give any authority or title to another Power to come in and seize the disputed region as vacant or relinquished territory. To the last the power of the Dervishes was extended as far south as Bor, and their effective occupation did not cease till their title passed by the victory of Omdurman without diminution into the hands of the conquering armies. I pointed out to him that such an occupation as that of M. Marchand, with an escort of 100 troops, could give no title to the occupying force, and that, in point of fact, but for the arrival of the British flotilla, M. Marchand's escort would have been destroyed by the Dervishes. M. Marchand's was a secret expedition into a territory already owned and occupied, and concerning which France had received repeated warnings that a seizure of land in that locality could not be accepted by Great Britain. The first warning was the Anglo-German Agreement, which was communicated to the French Government, and the provisions of which, as regards the Nile, were never formally contested. The next warning was given by the Agreement with the King of the Belgians, which gave him for his lifetime occupation up to Fashoda, and which Agreement is in existence and full force still. It has never been cancelled and never been repudiated by this country. It is true that the King of the Belgians was persuaded, without any assent on the part of Great Britain, to promise the French Government that he would not take advantage of it beyond a certain limit; but that concession on his part did not diminish the significance of the act as an assertion of her rights by England. In the objections raised by the French Government to that arrangement, the rights of the Khedive over these territories were expressly asserted as still existing. Then came Sir Edward Grey's speech in 1895, which was followed in 1897 by a formal note from your Excellency, informing

the French Foreign Minister that Her Majesty's Government adhered to the statements made by their predecessors by that speech. If France had throughout intended to challenge our claims, and to occupy a portion of this territory for herself, she was bound to have broken silence. At all events, if she thought fit to try, in face of these warnings, to establish a title over the vast territory to which they applied by a secret expedition of a handful of men, she must not be surprised that the claim would not be recognized by us.

His Excellency dwelt at great length on the importance of an agreement between the two nations on this matter, and pressed that such an agreement should be arrived at without delay. He insisted on the strength of the feeling that prevailed in France on the subject. I assured him the strength of feeling that prevailed in England was not less remarkable. He made no definite proposition; but he vaguely indicated a wish that both sides should give out that negotiations were going on upon the question of delimitation between the territories claimed by the two Powers; and he thought it possible that if we did so, M. Marchand would return by the way that he came. He did not, however, make any such proposal, and he indicated pretty clearly that the delimitation must be one which would give a considerable stretch of the left bank of the Nile to France. I gave no countenance to this suggestion. He dwelt more than once upon the injustice of France being excluded from the Nile, while Germany and Belgium were admitted. I pointed out to him that the possession of a portion of the shores of Lake Victoria Nyanza could hardly be called a position on the banks of the Nile; and that whatever rights the Congo State possessed below Lado, where the navigable Nile commenced, were only given to the King of the Belgians during his life.

We separated without coming to any conclusion; for I had no communication to make, except the reiteration of our claim of right; and he made no suggestion of any arrangement by which that right could be reconciled with the present pretensions or desires of France.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 2.

Mr. Rodd to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

My Lord, *Cairo, September* 29, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch which I have received from the Sirdar recording his advance up the White Nile, his proceedings at Fashoda, and the result of his interview with Major Marchand.

A copy of the Sirdar's preliminary letter to the "Chief of the European Expedition at Fashoda" is inclosed, together with Major Marchand's reply in original. Copies are also inclosed of the protest in writing against any French occupation in the Nile Valley, handed by the Sirdar to Major Marchand, and of the letter in which he notified to the latter that all transport of military stores on the Nile was prohibited.

The substance of this despatch has been already communicated to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RENNELL RODD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Major-General Sir H. Kitchener to Lord Cromer.

My Lord, *"Dal," White Nile, September* 21, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 10th instant I left Omdurman with five gun-boats carrying a detachment of the Cameron Highlanders, two Soudanese battalions of infantry, a battery of Egyptian artillery and Maxims, and steamed up the White Nile.

On the morning of the 15th September I arrived off the Dervish camp at Renkh, some 300 miles south of Khartoum, and after a short resistance the position was captured, as well as the steamer "Safia" and eleven large boats; the Emir in command, Saïd Sogheir, was taken prisoner, and he informed me that, in accordance with the Khalifa's orders, he had proceeded with two steamers and 500 men to the Shilluk country to collect grain; on the 25th August he had had a fight with a small body of Europeans who had entrenched themselves around the old Government buildings at Fashoda, over which a large unknown flag was flying; he had immediately dispatched one of his steamers to the Khalifa for reinforcements in order to drive the Europeans out of the country, and had himself retired to Renkh to await their arrival when we attacked and captured the Dervish position.

On the same day I left Renkh and stopped on the night of the 18th instant at the village of Babiu, some 12 miles north of Fashoda. Here we were met by a large number of Shilluks, including the uncle, brother, and son of the Mek (Chief). In answer to my inquiries regarding the Europeans at Fashoda, they informed me that they believed them to be a small body of our Government troops that had come from the West, but as they had no Shilluk interpreter, and did not go outside the old Egyptian Mudirieh buildings, they knew very little about them. They were utterly astonished when told they were not Government officials, and reiterated their great desire that we should stay and administer their country. They expressed great delight at the destruction of the Khalifa's army.

From this village I dispatched a letter addressed to the Chief of the European expedition at Fashoda (copy inclosed).

The following morning, when steaming towards Fashoda, I was met by a small steel boat carrying a French flag, and propelled by a crew of blacks with roughly cut paddles. A native sergeant came on board and handed me a reply to my letter from M. Marchand at Fashoda (original inclosed).

On reaching the old Government buildings, over which the French flag was flying, M. Marchand, accompanied by Captain Germain, came on board. After complimenting them on their long and arduous journey, I proceeded at once to inform M. Marchand that I was authorized to state that the presence of the French at Fashoda and in the Valley of the Nile was regarded as a direct violation of the rights of Egypt and Great Britain, and that, in accordance with my instructions, I must protest in the strongest terms against their occupation of Fashoda, and their hoisting of the French flag in the dominions of His Highness the Khedive.

In reply, M. Marchand stated that as a soldier he had to obey orders; the instructions of his Government to occupy the Bahr-el-Ghazal and the Mudirieh of Fashoda were precise, and, having carried them out, he must await the orders of his Government as to his subsequent action and movements.

I then pointed out that I had the instructions of the Government to re-establish Egyptian authority in the Fashoda Mudirieh, and I asked M. Marchand whether he was prepared—on behalf of the French Government—to resist the execution of these orders; he must be fully aware, I said, that the Egyptian and British forces were very much more powerful than those at his disposal, but, at the same time, I was very averse to creating a situation which might lead to hostilities. I therefore begged M. Marchand to most carefully consider his final decision on this matter. I further informed him that I should be pleased to place one of the gun-boats at his disposal to convey him and his expedition north.

In answer to this, M. Marchand did not hesitate to admit the preponderating forces at my disposal, and his inability to offer effective armed resistance; if, however, he said, I felt obliged to take any such action, he could only submit to the inevitable, which would mean that he and his companions would die at their posts. He begged, therefore, that I would consider his position, and would allow the question of his remaining at Fashoda to be referred to his Government, as, without their orders, he could not retire from his position or haul down his flag; at the same time, he said he felt sure that, under the circumstances, the orders for his retirement would not be delayed by his Government, and that then he hoped to avail himself of the offer I had made him.

I then said to him: "Do I understand that you are authorized by the French Government to resist Egypt in putting up its flag and reasserting its authority in its former possessions—such as the Mudirieh of Fashoda?"

M. Marchand hesitated, and then said that he could not resist the Egyptian flag being hoisted.

I replied that my instructions were to hoist the flag, and that I intended to do so.

I then asked M. Marchand what part of Fashoda would be suitable for this purpose, and it was arranged that Colonel Wingate, accompanied by Captain Germain, should at once visit the locality and decide on a position.. I eventually approved of the selection of a ruined bastion on the south portion of the old Fashoda fortifications, about 500 yards from the French flag, and on the only road leading from Fashoda to the interior, as deep and impassable marches exist both north and west of the old Mudirieh.

The Egyptian flag was hoisted on this position at 1 P.M. with due ceremony in the presence of the British and Egyptian troops, and a salute of twenty-one guns was fired.

I should add that, in the course of the conversation, I informed M. Marchand that, in addition to my verbal protest, I intended to make a formal protest in writing, and this I duly handed him before leaving Fashoda (copy inclosed).

During these somewhat delicate proceedings nothing could have exceeded the politeness and courtesy of the French officers.

Having officially appointed Major Jackson Commandant of the Fashoda district, and leaving with him a battalion of infantry, four guns, and a gun-boat, I proceeded south with the remainder of the troops and four gun-boats.

At 4 P.M. on the 20th instant the junction of the Sobat with the White Nile was reached, and here, amidst general rejoicings of the villagers, the flag was hoisted and half a battalian of infantry, the remainder of the artillery and Maxims and a gun-boat, were left as garrison of the station which lies on the left bank of the Sobat.

On ascertaining that the Bahr-el-Jebel was completely closed by the sudd, I left orders that gun-boat patrols should proceed south up the Bahr-el-Ghazal towards Meshra-er-Rek with instructions to form the necessary posts in these districts, and having completed the arrangements for the maintenance of the stations, I steamed north with the remaining gun-boats.

Considering that regulations were necessary regarding the transport of war material on the Nile, I gave prohibitive instructions on the subject, and when passing Fashoda on my return north, I sent a letter to M. Marchand, informing him of the regulation (copy inclosed).

The Mek of the Shilluks had by this time arrived in the Egyptian camp at Fashoda with a large contingent of his followers; he utterly denied that he had made any Treaty whatever with M. Marchand's expedition, and expressed his great satisfaction that the Government had taken over the administration of his country.

I had no opportunity for a further interview with M. Marchand, who, I venture to think, holds at Fashoda a most anomalous position—encamped with 120 men on a narrow strip of land, surrounded by marshes, cut off from access to the interior, possessing only three small boats without oars or sails and an inefficient steam-launch which has lately been dispatched on a long journey south, short of ammunition and supplies, his followers exhausted by years of continuous hardship, yet still persisting in the prosecution of his impracticable undertaking in the face of the effective occupation and administration of the country I have been able to establish.

It is impossible not to entertain the highest admiration for the courage, devotion, and indomitable spirit displayed by M. Marchand's expedition, but our general impression was one of astonishment that an attempt should have been made to carry out a project of such magnitude and danger by the dispatch of so small and ill-equipped a force which—as their Commander remarked to me, was neither in a position to resist a second Dervish attack nor to retire—indeed, had our destruction of the Khalifa's power at Omdurman been delayed a fortnight, in all probability he and his companions would have been massacred.

The claims of M. Marchand to have occupied the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Fashoda Provinces with the force at his disposal would be ludicrous did not the sufferings and privations his expedition endured during their two years arduous journey render the futility of their efforts pathetic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Major-General Sir H. Kitchener to the Chief of the European Expedition at Fashoda.

Monsieur, *Babiu, le* 18 *Septembre,* 1898.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'au 2 Septembre j'ai attaqué le Khalifa à Omdurman et ayant détruit son armée, j'ai réoccupé le pays.

Peu après j'ai quitté Omdurman avec une flottille de cinq canonnières et une force considérable de troupes Anglaises et Égyptiennes pour me rendre à Fashoda.

En route, à Renkh, j'ai rencontré les Dervishes; je les ai attaqués et, après un combat léger, je me suis emparé de leur campement et bateaux. L'Émir-en-chef, Saïd Sogheir, était fait prisonnier. Il m'a informé que, conformément aux ordres du Khalifa, il était allé dernièrement à Fashoda pour chercher du blé et là il y a eu un combat entre ses gens et des Européens quelconques. Ensuite il était revenu à Renkh d'où il avait envoyé chercher des renforts d'Omdurman avec l'intention de chasser les Européens de Fashoda, et pendant qu'il attendait leur arrivée nous l'avions attaqué.

Considérant comme probables les nouvelles de la présence des Européens à Fashoda, j'ai cru de mon devoir de vous écrire cette lettre avec l'objet de vous prévenir des événements qui ont eu lieu dernièrement et de vous informer de ma prochaine arrivée à Fashoda.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

(Translation.)

Sir, *Babiu, September* 18, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 2nd September I attacked the Khalifa at Omdurman, and, after destroying his army, reoccupied the country.

Shortly afterwards I left Omdurman for Fashoda with a flotilla of five gun-boats, and a considerable force of British and Egyptian troops.

On the way, at Renkh, I came across the Dervishes; I attacked them, and, after a slight engagement, captured their camp and boats. Saïd Sogheir, the chief Emir, was taken prisoner. He informed me that, in accordance with the orders of the Khalifa, he lately went to Fashoda to get corn, and that a fight took place there between his men and some Europeans. He then returned to Renkh whence he sent to Omdurman for reinforcements, with the intention of driving the Europeans out of Fashoda. While he was waiting for them we attacked him.

Considering that the report of the presence of Europeans at Fashoda is probably true, I have thought it my duty to send you this letter in order to inform you of the events which have recently taken place, and of my approaching arrival at Fashoda.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Commandant Marchand to Major-General Sir H. Kitchener.

Mon Général, *Fachoda, le* 19 *Septembre,* 1898.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre honorée, datée Babiu, 18 Septembre, 1898.

J'ai appris avec le plus vif plaisir l'occupation d'Omdurman par l'armée Anglo-Égyptienne, la destruction des bandes du Kalifat et la disparition définitive du Madhisme dans la Vallée du Nil. Je serai sans doute le premier à présenter mes bien sincères félicitations Françaises au Général Kitchener, dont le nom incarne depuis tant d'années la lutte de la civilisation aujourd'hui victorieuse contre le fanatisme sauvage des partisans du Madhi; permettez-moi donc, mon Général, de vous les présenter respectueusement pour vous d'abord, et la vaillante armée que vous commandez.

Ce devoir, bien agréable, rempli, je crois devoir vous informer que par ordre de mon Gouvernement j'ai occupé le Bahr-el-Ghazal jusqu'à Meschra-Rek et au confluent du Bahr-el-Djebel, puis le pays Chillouk de la rive gauche du Nil Blanc jusqu'à Fachoda, où je suis entré le 10 Juillet dernier.

Le 25 Août j'ai été attaqué dans Fachoda par une expédition Derviche composée de deux vapeurs que je crois être le "Chibéen" et le "Kaokao" montés par 1,200 hommes environ avec artillerie. Le combat engagé à 6 h. 40 m. du matin s'est terminé à 5 heures du soir par la fuite des deux vapeurs que le courant sauva avec ce qui restait de monde à bord. La plupart des grands chalands remorqués furent coulés et le "Chibéen" fortement avarié.

A la suite de cette affaire, dont la première conséquence comportait libération du pays Chillouk, j'ai signé avec Sultan Kour Abd-el-Fadil Grand Mek, le 3 Septembre, un Traité plaçant le pays Chillouk de la rive gauche du Nil Blanc sous le Protectorat Français sauf ratification par mon Gouvernement.

J'ai envoyé expédition du Traité en Europe, d'abord par la voie du Sobat et Abyssinie puis par le Bahr-el-Ghazal et la Meschra-Rek où mon vapeur, le "Faidherbe," se trouve actuellement avec l'ordre de m'apporter des renforts que je jugeais nécessaires pour défendre Fachoda contre une seconde attaque des Derviches plus forte que la première et que j'attendais vers le 25 courant.

Votre arrivée l'a empêchée.

Je vous présente donc mes souhaits de bienvenue dans le Haut-Nil et prends bonne note de votre intention de venir à Fachoda où je serai heureux de vous saluer au nom de la France.

Veuillez, &c.

(Sceau.) (Signé) T. MARCHAND.

(Translation.)

Mon Général, *Fashoda, September* 19, 1898

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated Babiu, 18th September, 1898.

I have heard with the greatest satisfaction of the occupation of Omdurman by the Anglo-Egyptian army, the destruction of the forces of the Khalifa, and the final disappearance of Mahdism from the Valley of the Nile. I shall, no doubt, be the first to offer the very sincere congratulations of a Frenchman to General Kitchener, whose name has for so many years embodied the struggle of civilization, to-day victorious, against the savage fanaticism of the partisans of the Mahdi; allow me, then, General, to offer my respectful congratulations to you and to the brave army under your command.

Having fulfilled this agreeable duty, I consider it necessary to inform you that, by order of my Government, I have occupied the Bahr-el-Ghazal as far as Meshra-er-Rek, and the confluence of the Bahr-el-Ghazal with the Bahr-el-Djebel, as well as the Shilluk country on the left bank of the White Nile as far as Fashoda, which I entered on the 10th July last.

On the 25th August I was attacked at Fashoda by a Dervish expedition consisting of two steamers, which I believe to have been the "Chibeen" and the "Kaokao," having about 1,200 men on board with artillery. The engagement began at 6·40 A.M., and was terminated at 5 P.M. by the flight of the two steamers, which were saved by the current with all the men left on board. Most of the large barges which were being towed were sunk, and the "Chibeen" was much damaged.

After this engagement, the first consequence of which was the liberation of the Shilluk country, I signed, on the 3rd September, a Treaty with Sultan Kour Abd-el-Fadil, Grand Mek, placing the Shilluk country on the left bank of the White Nile under the Protectorate of France, subject to ratification by my Government.

I sent copies of the Treaty to Europe, first by way of the Sobat and Abyssinia, and then by the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Meshra-er-Rek, where my steamer, the "Faidherbe," is at present, with orders to bring me reinforcements, which I considered necessary for the defence of Fashoda against a second attack, which I expected the Dervishes to make about the 25th instant, in greater force than on the first occasion.

Your arrival has prevented it.

I offer you my best wishes on your arrival on the Upper Nile, and take note of your intention to come to Fashoda, where I shall be happy to welcome you in the name of France.

I have, &c.

(Seal.) (Signed) T. MARCHAND.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Major-General Sir H. Kitchener to Commandant Marchand.

M. le Commandant, *Fachoda, le* 19 *Septembre*, 1898.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre datée Fachoda, le 19 courant, dans laquelle vous m'informez que, par ordre du Gouvernement Français, vous avez occupé le Bahr-el-Ghazal jusqu'à Meschra-Rek et au confluent du Bahr-el-Jebel, puis le pays Chillouk, de la rive gauche du Nil Blanc jusqu'à Fachoda, où vous êtes entré le 10 Juillet dernier.

En confirmation du protêt verbal que je vous ai adressé quand j'ai eu l'honneur de vous recevoir aujourd'hui, c'est mon devoir, de la part des Gouvernements Égyptien et Anglais, de vous faire un protêt formel contre toute occupation par la France des pays dans la Vallée du Nil, ce qui est une violation des droits des dits Gouvernements.

J'ai aussi l'honneur de vous informer, par ordre de mon Gouvernement, que je ne peux pas reconnaître aucune occupation par la France—n'importe dans quelle partie—des pays de la Vallée du Nil.

Je dois vous informer qu'ayant hissé aujourd'hui le pavillon Égyptien à Fachoda, le Gouvernement de ce pays a été formellement repris par l'Égypte et j'ai nommé le Caïmacan Jackson Bey, Commandant à Fachoda, à partir de cette date.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

(Translation.)

M. le Commandant, *Fashoda, September* 19, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated Fashoda, the 19th instant, in which you inform me that, by order of the French Government, you have occupied the Bahr-el-Ghazal as far as Meshra-er-Rek and the confluence of the Bahr-el-Ghazal with the Bahr-el-Djebel, as well as the Shilluk country, on the left bank of the White Nile, as far as Fashoda, which you entered on the 10th July last.

In confirmation of the verbal protest which I addressed to you when I had the honour to receive you to-day, it is my duty to make to you a formal protest, on behalf of the Egyptian and British Governments, against any occupation by France of the countries in the Valley of the Nile, such occupation being a violation of the rights of the aforesaid Governments.

I also have the honour to inform you, by order of my Government, that I cannot recognize any occupation by France of any part of the countries of the Nile Valley.

I must inform you that the Egyptian flag having to-day been hoisted at Fashoda, the Government of this country has been formally resumed by Egypt, and I have appointed Kaïmakam Jackson Bey to be Commandant of Fashoda, the appointment to take effect to-day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

Major-General Sir H. Kitchener to Commandant Marchand.

M. le Commandant, *Fachoda, le* 21 *Septembre*, 1898.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que des stations du Gouvernement ont été établies sur le Sobat avec les garnisons nécessaires et nos canonnières monteront le Bahr-el-Ghazal sans délai pour y former des postes.

Pendant notre conversation d'hier, je vous ai informé que par Ordonnance du Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Khédive, tous ces pays ont été mis sous la loi militaire; en conséquence, j'ai fait le Règlement suivant: "Tout transport de munitions de guerre sur le Nil est absolument interdit," et j'ai donné les ordres aux Commandants des canonnières de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour l'exécution de ce Règlement.

Je vous prie, donc, M. le Commandant, d'en prendre note et de donner les ordres que comportent à vos officiers à ce sujet.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

(Translation.)

M. le Commandant, *Fashoda, September* 21, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Government posts have been established on the Sobat with the necessary garrisons, and that our gun-boats will proceed up the Bahr-el-Ghazal without delay to establish posts there.

During our conversation yesterday I informed you that, by Decree of the Government of His Highness the Khedive, all these countries have been placed under military law; consequently I have made the following Regulation: "All transport of munitions of war on the Nile is absolutely prohibited," and I have given orders to the Commanders of the gun-boats to take the necessary steps for enforcing this Regulation.

I beg you, M. le Commandant, to take note of this, and to give the necessary instructions to your officers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

No. 3.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1898.

THE French Ambassador had a long conversation with me this afternoon on the state of things in the Upper Nile.

During the early part of the interview he insisted that he had no instructions; that he only wished by conversation with me to explore the question, and ascertain, if possible, a solution which would be acceptable to England and France. I declined, however, to make any proposal or suggestion under those conditions, for I drew his attention to the fact that anything that he said would not bind his Government, while anything that I said would bind mine.

Later on in the interview his Excellency somewhat receded from this position, and said that although he had no special instructions, still he had general instructions, and that on those he could base his efforts to ascertain the most satisfactory mode of proceeding.

We traversed most of the field of argument which we had gone over before, and with which I will not trouble your Excellency again. I generally insisted on the view that the Valley of the Nile had belonged and still belonged to Egypt, and that whatever impediment or diminution that title might have suffered through the conquest and occupation of the Mahdi had been removed by the victory of the Anglo-Egyptian army on the 2nd September. There was no pretence, therefore, for the contention that the region was open to the enterprises or the occupation of a third Power. But even if it had been so, no title or right of occupation could be created by a secret expedition across unknown and unexplored wastes, at a distance from the French border, by M. Marchand and a scanty escort.

I then called M. de Courcel's attention to the fact that M. Marchand was in an impossible position, because I had good reason to believe that he himself admitted that he could not return westward, and that his own Government forbade him to make use of the Nile, which was the only existing mode of escape. His Excellency traversed this assertion, and said that M. Marchand could perfectly retreat by the west if we would allow him to do so. I replied that we offered no sort of impediment to his doing so. "Yes, but," said his Excellency, "he cannot do so without food, and you will not let us take him food." I said that if want of food was the only impediment that prevented him returning to the dominions of France, the English Government would see that he was able to procure the food necessary for that purpose.

His Excellency went on to say: "But that is not enough; he is traversing a hostile and dangerous country; no one can travel in those countries except with

adequate protection and fully armed, and M. Marchand's munitions of war are believed to be exhausted." I replied that the English Government would not object to furnish him with the munitions of war that were necessary to protect him and his party from massacre by savage tribes during his return, but it would have to be on two conditions: first, that he would engage only to use such munitions of war for his own protection against the indigenous tribes; and, secondly, that he would retire to that which we admitted to be French territory, namely, the region lying beyond the watershed which separates the Ubanghi from the affluents of the Nile. I said that we could not assign to him any limit to his retreat short of that position without giving ground for saying that we admitted the title of France to some portions of the territory traversed by the affluents of the Nile. I was in no position to discuss that question, and therefore I could not acquiesce in an arrangement which might seem to prejudge it. I thought, however, that the French Government might sufficiently guard themselves against any inference which they had cause to deprecate by simply saying that in accepting such an arrangement no admission would be made with respect to any pending controversy. I did not believe that any practical disadvantage would follow to them from withdrawing M. Marchand to the Ubanghi on those terms; but if there were, it was a necessary consequence of their having placed M. Marchand in so false and unreasonable a position.

To this suggestion, however, his Excellency did not assent. He passed from it suddenly, and stated that the object of the French Government was to have an outlet to the Nile for their Ubanghi province, and he asked for such a territorial delimitation as would place France upon the navigable portion of the Bahr-el-Ghazal, so that no frontier could intervene between her commerce and the Nile. He stated that posts had been for a considerable time established by France in the upper portions of the province, and that they had every right to them which could arise from long and undisputed occupation.

I replied that these were questions which I was not in a position to discuss. I did not possess as yet the requisite knowledge to enter satisfactorily upon the points that he had raised, and any proposals affecting a general delimitation were of too grave a character to be disposed of except by the submission of definite proposals to the Cabinet, furnished with such information as was necessary for the consideration of the subject. He intimated that if I could give him a satisfactory answer on this question, M. Marchand might be allowed to return down the Nile. I did not, however, enter upon this idea, which was only indicated in a vague and superficial way. I pointed out to him that both with respect to the means of M. Marchand's retreat and any other stipulations which it was his object to suggest, it would be very difficult to deal with them satisfactorily unless he was good enough to let me have them in a written form.

The extreme indefiniteness of his language, and the rhetorical character he gave to it by the great earnestness with which he addressed himself to the subject, made it impossible for me to express or to form any definite opinion upon the various propositions which he seemed to desire to convey. I thought it better to wait until they were submitted either to me or to your Excellency in a more precise and tangible form rather than enter upon a discussion which, under the circumstances, would have been fruitful of misapprehension. This appeared to me especially to be the case with respect to the allusions which he made from time to time to what he considered to be the territory to which France had a just right. I informed him that it was no part of my duty to discuss these claims now, but that in abstaining from doing so I must not be understood to be in any degree admitting their validity.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 4.

Lord Cromer to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 17.)

My Lord, *Cairo, October* 10, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, forwarding me a copy of the Sirdar's Report to the Regent on his proceedings south of Omdurman, and a copy of the Regent's letter to the Sirdar warmly approving these proceedings.

In forwarding these documents, Boutros Pasha invites the support of Her Majesty's Government in the negotiations now proceeding with the French Government to secure the title of Egypt to the territories abandoned by her during the Mahdist rebellion under the pressure of *force majeure*, to which his Excellency explicitly records Egypt has never renounced her rights.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Major-General Sir H. Kitchener to Moustapha Fehmy Pasha.

Excellence, *Le Caire, le 6 Octobre, 1898.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'après la défaite des Derwiches à Omdurman, je me suis rendu avec une flotille de canonnières sur le Nil Blanc pour rétablir l'autorité de Son Altesse dans les anciens Moudiriehs et Gouvernorats du Soudan.

En arrivant à Fachoda, j'y ai trouvé une expédition Française peu nombreuse, commandée par le Commandant Marchand, avec le drapeau Français hissé sur les anciens bâtiments du Moudirieh.

Je lui ai immédiatement demandé de retirer son drapeau, et je lui ai offert de mettre à sa disposition une canonnière pour conduire son expédition au Caire.

Sur son refus, je lui ai fait un protêt verbal contre cette violation des territoires Égyptiens, et plus tard je lui ai adressé un protêt semblable en écriture.

Comme M. Marchand n'a pas voulu se retirer sans l'ordre de son Gouvernement, j'ai hissé sur les anciennes fortifications le pavillon Égyptien avec les cérémonies d'usage, et j'y ai laissée une garnison assez nombreuse pour faire face à toute éventualité.

J'ai aussi nommé Jackson Bey Gouverneur de l'ancienne Province de Fachoda.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

(Translation.)

Your Excellency, *Cairo, October* 6, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that after the defeat of the Dervishes at Omdurman, I went with a flotilla of gun-boats up the White Nile to re-establish the authority of His Highness in the old Moudiriehs and Governorships of the Soudan.

On arrival at Fashoda I found there a small French expedition under the command of Commandant Marchand, with the French flag hoisted on the old buildings of the Moudirieh.

I immediately requested him to withdraw his flag, and offered to place a gun-boat at his disposal to bring his expedition to Cairo.

Upon his refusal I made a verbal protest against this violation of Egyptian territory, and later on I addressed a similar protest to him in writing.

As M. Marchand would not withdraw without orders from his Government I hoisted the Egyptian flag on the old fortifications, with the usual ceremonies, and left a garrison there sufficiently large to deal with any eventuality.

I also appointed Jackson Bey Governor of the old Province of Fashoda.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT KITCHENER, *Sirdar.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Moustapha Fehmy Pasha to Major-General Sir H. Kitchener.

Cher Sirdar, *Le Caire, le 9 Octobre,* 1898.

J'AI appris avec la plus grande satisfaction, par votre communication du 6 Octobre, qu'après la victoire brillante que vous avez remportée à Omdurman, vous avez été jusqu'à Fachoda, et vous y avez hissé le drapeau Égyptien.

En approuvant pleinement et entièrement cette entreprise, ainsi que la nomination de Jackson Bey comme Gouverneur de Fachoda, le Gouvernement Égyptien vous remercie

chaleureusement de ce que, pénétré de l'intérêt de l'Égypte, et des sacrifices qu'elle a faits jadis pour être maîtresse de la Vallée du Nil, vous n'ayez pas perdu de temps pour mettre à profit la défaite des Derwiches, et lui reconquérir les provinces qui assurent son existence, et dont elle ne s'est retiré provisoirement qu'à la suite de la situation fâcheuse dans laquelle nous nous trouvions.

C'est donc un nouveau titre que vous avez acquis à la reconnaissance de l'Égypte, et en vous réitérant les remerciements du Gouvernement, je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

Le Régent,
(Signé) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

(Translation.)

Dear Sirdar, *Cairo, October* 9, 1898.

I HAVE learned with the greatest satisfaction from your communication of the 6th October, that after the brilliant victory which you gained at Omdurman, you proceeded to Fashoda and hoisted the Egyptian flag there.

While fully and entirely approving this proceeding, as well as the appointment of Jackson Bey as Governor of Fashoda, the Egyptian Government thank you warmly for having, in your solicitude for the interests of Egypt, and mindful of the sacrifices she formerly made to be mistress of the Valley of the Nile, lost no time in taking advantage of the defeat of the Dervishes, and reconquering for her the provinces which assure her existence, and from which she only retired provisionally, in consequence of the disastrous position in which we found ourselves.

You have thus acquired a new title to the gratitude of Egypt, and while reiterating to you the thanks of the Government, I beg you to accept, &c.

The Regent,
(Signed) MOUSTAPHA FEHMY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Boutros Ghali Pasha to Lord Cromer.

Mon cher Lord, *Le Caire, le* 9 *Octobre,* 1898.

SON Excellence le Sirdar vient d'informer son Excellence Moustapha Pacha Fehmy que, s'étant rendu à Fachoda pour rétablir l'autorité de Son Altesse le Khédive dans les anciens Gouvernorats et Moudiriehs du Soudan, il y a trouvé une expédition Française, qu'il a invitée à quitter les lieux. Sur son refus, son Excellence le Sirdar a protesté d'abord verbalement, ensuite par écrit, contre cette violation du territoire Égyptien. Il a arboré le pavillon Égyptien et nommé un Gouverneur.

Le Gouvernement de Son Altesse, ainsi que le sait votre Seigneurie, n'a jamais perdu de vue la réoccupation des provinces du Soudan, qui sont les sources mêmes de la vitalité de l'Égypte et dont il ne s'était retiré qu'à la suite de circonstances de force majeure.

La reconquête de Khartoum manquerait donc son effet si la Vallée du Nil, pour laquelle l'Égypte a fait jadis tant de sacrifices, ne lui était pas restituée.

Sachant que la question de Fachoda est à l'heure qu'il est l'objet de pourparlers entre la Grande-Bretagne et la France, le Gouvernement Égyptien me charge de prier votre Seigneurie de nous prêter ses bons offices auprès de sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury afin que les droits incontestables de l'Égypte lui soient reconnus, et que toutes les provinces qu'elle occupait jusqu'à la rébellion de Mohamed Ahmed lui soient rendues.

En envoyant ci-joint à votre Seigneurie copie de la dépêche de son Excellence le Sirdar, ainsi que de la réponse de son Excellence Moustapha Pacha Fehmy, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) BOUTROS GHALI.

(Translation.)

My dear Lord, *Cairo, October* 9, 1898.

HIS Excellency the Sirdar has just informed his Excellency Moustapha Pasha Fehmy that having gone to Fashoda to re-establish the authority of His Highness the Khedive in the old Governorships and Moudiriehs of the Soudan, he found there a French expedition, which he requested to leave the place. This request having been refused, his Excellency the Sirdar protested, first verbally and afterwards in writing,

against this violation of Egyptian territory. He hoisted the Egyptian flag and appointed a Governor.

The Government of His Highness, as your Lordship knows, has never lost sight of the reoccupation of the provinces of the Soudan, which are the actual sources of the vitality of Egypt, and from which she only withdrew owing to circumstances of *force majeure*.

The reconquest of Khartoum would, therefore, fail of its effect if the Valley of the Nile, for which Egypt formerly made such sacrifices, were not restored to her.

Knowing that the question of Fashoda is at the present moment the subject of communications between Great Britain and France, the Egyptian Government charges me to beg your Lordship to lend us your good offices with Lord Salisbury in order that the incontestable rights of Egypt may be recognized, and that all the provinces which she occupied up to the rebellion of Mohamed Ahmed may be restored to her.

In forwarding herewith to your Lordship a copy of the despatch from his Excellency the Sirdar, and of the reply of his Excellency Moustapha Pasha Fehmy, I avail, &c.

(Signed) BOUTROS GHALI.

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on 31 October, 2019

EGYPT. No. 3 (1898).

FURTHER Correspondence respecting the Valley of the Upper Nile.

[In continuation of "Egypt No. 2 (1898)".]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. October 1898.

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